

- authenticating (415) the virus-free certificate (200), said virus-free certificate comprising a certificate signature (206);  
authenticating (407) the file, said virus-free certificate (200) comprising a file signature (207), said file signature certifying that said file has been declared virus-free by a virus-free certificate authority (102).

22. A computer program recorded on a computer-readable medium and comprising instructions [for carrying out the] executing a method [according to any one of claims 14 to 20.] having steps of:

- determining (401) whether a virus-free certificate (200) is integrated within a file; if a virus-free certificate is integrated within the file:
- authenticating (415) the virus-free certificate (200), said virus-free certificate comprising a certificate signature (206);  
authenticating (407) the file, said virus-free certificate (200) comprising a file signature (207), said file signature certifying that said file has been declared virus-free by a virus-free certificate authority (102).

### In the Abstract

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### **--Abstract of the Disclosure**

A method and system are disclosed for generating and using a virus-free file certificate integrated in a file. The method, for use in a virus-free certificate authority (102), for generating a virus-free certificate (200) certifying that a file is virus-free includes the steps of: receiving (300) a virus-free certificate request for a file from a server (101) or a client (100) system, said virus-free certificate request including the file for which the virus-free certificate is requested; determining (301) whether a virus-free certificate is integrated in the file; if no virus-free certificate is integrated in the file: determining (305) whether the file is virus-free or not; if the file is declared virus-free by the virus-free certificate authority (102): generating (313, 314) a virus-free certificate (200) including a file signature (207) for certifying that said file is declared virus-free by the virus-free certificate authority (102); integrating (316) the generated virus-free certificate (200) in the file; sending (316) back in response to the virus-free certificate request the file with the integrated virus-free certificate